



ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Being a light to the world.

Worship, Youth, Discipleship

The Holy Eucharist

The Word of God 5:30 p.m.

Welcome to St. Thomas Episcopal Church and Merry Christmas.

If you are new to St. Thomas or visiting, we are glad to have you with us. This service booklet is designed to help you join us in worship. The hymns we sing can generally be found in the blue Hymnal 1982, in the pew racks in front of you. Other music is included in this booklet. The lessons are included on the separate lesson sheet. If you need help, don't hesitate to ask an usher or a greeter, or someone nearby.

In order that we may get to know you better, please fill out one of the welcome cards, which can be found in the pew racks, and place it in the collection plate during the offering.

VOLUNTARY AND PROCESSION OF THE CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE

*Creator of the Stars of Night
What Child Is This?*

Richard Warner
Timothy Albrecht

The service begins with the opening hymn and the procession of the ministers of the liturgy.

HYMN IN PROCESSION

Adeste fidele

1 O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e-ter-nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion,
*4 See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his cra-dle,
*5 Child, for us sin-ners poor and in the man-ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth-le-hem;
2 lo! he ab-hors not the Vir-gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci-ti-zens of heaven a-bove;
4 leav-ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
5 we would em-brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

STATION AT THE CRECHE

The people's responses are in bold print.

The Glory of the Lord has been revealed.
And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Then all join in the following prayer.

**Almighty God, as we celebrate with joy
 the gift of the Christ-child,
 embrace the earth with your glory
 and be for us a living hope
 in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

All then join in the Gloria in excelsis, an ancient hymn of praise.

A CHRISTMAS GLORIA

The following verses are sung by the cantor, the people join in singing the refrain.

Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God and Father.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis

De - o Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God. **Refrain**

You take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. **Refrain**

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ.

Refrain

With the Holy Spirit, in the ✠ glory of God the Father. Amen.

The people remain standing for the

COLLECT OF CHRISTMAS EVE

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

Amen.

THE LESSONS

The people sit. Readings from the Bible are proclaimed and we share in the gift of God's Word through listening to the scriptures.

THE FIRST READING—Isaiah 9:2-7

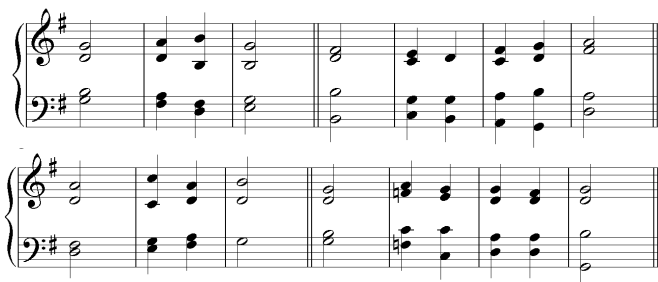
A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96: 1-4, 11-12



- 1 Sing to the LORD a / **new** / song; *
sing to the LORD, / all the / **whole** / earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and / bless his / Name; *
proclaim the good news of his sal/vation from / day to / day.
- 3 Declare his glory a/mong the / nations *
and his / wonders a/mong all / peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and / greatly to be / praised; *
he is more to be / feared than / **all** / gods.



- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and / all that is / in it; *
let the field be joyful and / all that / is there/in.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the / LORD when he / comes, *
when he / comes to / judge the / earth.

THE SECOND READING—Titus 2:11-14

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN

Away in a manger



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat-tle are low-ing, the ba-by a-wakes,
* 3 Be near me, Lord Je-sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit-tle Lord Je-sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit-tle Lord Je-sus no cry-ing he makes.
close by me for ev-er, and love me I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je-sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil-dren in thy ten-der care,



THE GOSPEL—Luke 2:1-14

To introduce the Gospel the reader says

The ✠ Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

At the end of the Gospel lesson the reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

After the Gospel, one of the ministers gives the sermon, explaining how the lessons relate to our lives.

NICENE CREED

Then all stand and join in the following.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**
**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the ✠ life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The people kneel or stand. Prayers are offered for our own needs and for those of others.
After each petition the reader says*

God of love and mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The presider adds a concluding collect.

The Holy Communion

The presider introduces the offertory. An anthem is sung by the choir as the bread and wine for communion are brought forward. After the collection, the gifts of the people are presented at the altar. All join in the hymn.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day* R. Shephard
St. Thomas Treble Choristers & Choral Scholars

OFFERTORY CAROL Mendelssohn

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

The Lord be with you.

An also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The presider offers the bread and the wine and the gifts of the people back to God, remembering that God is the source of all that we give.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Then all join in the Sanctus, the song of the angels



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



✠ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

The presider introduces the Lord's Prayer.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The presider breaks the consecrated bread and all join in the Fraction Anthem

Christ is the bread of life which has come down from heaven.

Lord, give us this bread for ever.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

The presider invites the people to communion; to receive the body and blood of Jesus in the bread and wine which have been blessed.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome at the altar. Those not receiving communion are invited to come forward for a prayer of blessing carrying this Order of Service to the altar with you. The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist is normally reserved for baptized Christians of any denomination. For more information about baptism, please speak to the clergy.

During the distribution of communion the people may join in singing the hymn.

COMMUNION CAROL

Greensleeves

Unison or harmony

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for sal -
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to

bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

A period of silence follows communion after which all join in saying

**We pray you, Lord, to purify our hearts
that they may be made worthy
to become your dwelling place.
Let us never fail to find room for you,
but come and abide in us,
that we also may abide in you,
through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord. Amen**

The ushers will light the congregation's candles.

The people may kneel.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

Stille Nacht

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

The first system of musical notation for the hymn 'Stille Nacht'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The treble staff contains the vocal melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,'.

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are: 'all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child. at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far, love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,'.

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

The third and final system of musical notation on this page. It concludes the hymn. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy'.

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

THE BLESSING

May the joy of the angels,
 the eagerness of the shepherds,
 perseverance of the wise men,
 the obedience of Joseph and Mary
 and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas,
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 the ✠ Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

- 1 While shep - herds kept their
- 2 The shep - herds feared and
- 3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat Refrain

hold, through-out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

In Ducli Jubilo, BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach

Participants in the Liturgy

Presider & Preacher:	The Rev. Brian Coleman
Deacon:	The Rev. Trish Harris
Sub-deacon:	Jodi Nickerson
Crucifer:	Claire Nickerson
Torches:	Apollo Nickerson & Quinn Nickerson
Chalice:	The Rev. Trish Harris & Megan Phelan
Choir:	St. Thomas Treble Choristers & Choral Scholars
Organist & Choirmaster:	Dr. Stephen White
Lector:	Kellan Petronski
Intercessor:	Megan Phelan
Altar Chapter:	Bob Harberts, Brenda Hillman & Heather Wiley
A/V Tech:	Joerg Himmelreich

Christmas Day

All are Welcome!

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

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The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by:

Ross & Kathy Dingwall	In thanksgiving for the loving hand of Fr. Brian in our lives
Tom & Gillian Ebeling	In memory of Edward & Phyllis Young and Paul & Connie Ebeling
Heather Lane-Fowler	In memory of Hazel & Richard Lane In thanksgiving for the birth of grandson, Ronan Gerald Bucusi
Barbara Hettich & Eric Prechtel	In thanksgiving for Father Brian's and John's service to our parish
Robert Hibbard	In memory of Shirley Hibbard
Barb & Tom Hibiske	In memory of Charley & Blanche Baker, Jerry Works, Art Hibiske & Ray Reed and in thanksgiving for family, friends & God
Roy & Brenda Hillman	In memory of family and in thanksgiving for Fr. Brian and for Roy's 75th birthday
Karen Keese	In memory of Robert & Faustine Snyder
The Kiess and Gray Families	In memory of Gene Gray and Jim Kiess
Liz Neumeyer	In memory of Ruth & Raymond Neumeyer
Yvette Petti & Loretta Kaercher	In memory of Barbara Petti and Harriet Magenheimer
Carol A. Schelb	In memory of George E. McKay, Jr.
Becky and Bernie Squires	In thanksgiving for our grandchildren

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Being a light to the world.

*We seek to love and serve the Lord
through our Mission Imperatives:*



Worship



Youth



Discipleship

*16 East Van Buren Street
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017
(269) 965-2244
www.StThomasBC.org*

Worship Services

Sundays

10:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist
5:00 p.m., Choral Evensong (1st Sunday of month)

Weekdays

9:00 a.m., Morning Prayer
5:00 p.m., Evening Prayer